



Meet, share, engage

MORE than 100 younger members of the Australian business events community are set to take place in a virtual meeting exchange designed by the Exhibition and Event Association of Australasia (EEAA) Young Stars Committee.

Taking place tomorrow 21 Oct at 12 noon AEDT, the "Meet, Share and Engage" online gathering will be led by EEAA Young Stars Committee Co-Chairs Kay Badaksh and Roslyn, Du Plooy, while other participants will include EEAA CEO Claudia Sagripanti and Info Salons Group CEO Jo-Anne Kellaway - to register or for more info **CLICK HERE**.

Sagripanti said from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic EEAA had placed a high priority on future-proofing the industry, with talent retention and engagement forming a key pillar in the organisation's Rebuild Strategy.

The plan also includes a Young Stars Pathway Program (**BEN** 28 Jul) which features coaching sessions with industry leaders.

NSW opens up

THE NSW Government has further relaxed its COVID restrictions, now allowing up to 500 patrons for outdoor seated events, subject to the four square metre rule.

NSW hospitality venues may also operate under a two square metre rule per occupant outdoors, and group bookings for up to 30 patrons are now allowed.

Businesses wanting to adopt the new rules must use an electronic method of registering attendance.

Corporate events must comply with a 300 person limit or one person per four square metres, whichever is less, but future bookings exceeding the maximum number can be taken as long as the organiser complies with the rules in force when the event takes place.

Outdoor corporate events can have up to 150 people and weddings of up to 300 are allowed from 01 Dec.

THE BEARD IS GONE!



THE Australian business events sector is breathing a sigh of relief after the vanquishing of the visual pollution of Andrew Hiebl's COVID-19 beard.

Hiebl, head of the Australian Association of Convention Bureaux (**pictured**), vowed not to shave his facial hair on 13 Mar - the same day that Prime Minister Scott Morrison imposed a range of restrictions as well as warning Australians not to travel overseas - as a daily reminder of the mental impacts COVID-19 is placing on the sector, with the aim of raising funds equivalent to 0.01% of Government funds for mental health during the pandemic (**BEN** 23 Jun).

Having achieved a massive total of \$6,225.47 from 106 donors, Hiebl has finally given in to the incessant itching and once again looks like a fresh-faced 21-year-old.

"This year's World Mental



Health Day on 10 Oct marked seven months since National Cabinet shut down the business events industry in Australia due to COVID-19.

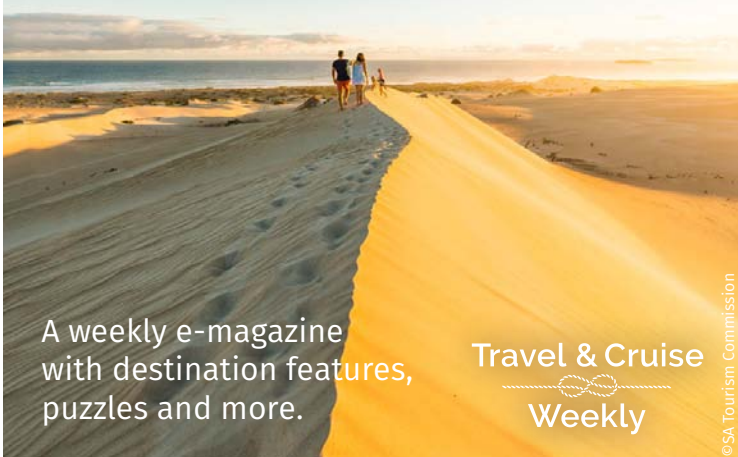
"It also marks seven months of growing my COVID beard as a daily reminder of the mental health impacts that the pandemic is placing on our people in the tourism and events industry," he said.

Hiebl's donation to Beyond Blue (**inset**) comes in the form of a giant novelty cheque which also recognises the generosity of those who have supported him in his quest.

Today's issue of BEN

Business Events News today has two pages of news.

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Travel & Cruise Weekly

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YOU'VE heard of a travel bubble - but how about an event bubble, or lots of bubbles, to be exact?

US rock group The Flaming Lips is redefining the live concert event experience, using inflatable life-sized bubbles to keep themselves and their fans from spreading COVID-19.

A performance in Oklahoma City last week saw the band, along with all of their fans, taking part inside individual plastic spheres (pictured).

The idea is based on a futuristic sketch by lead singer Wayne Coyne who said in the early days of the pandemic he was just thinking of it as social commentary about the virus.

The concept was first shown in May during a performance on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* but has then expanded to a full-blown experiment with hundreds of bubbles.

"I like the way this looks, because you can get as excited as you want, you can scream as much as you want, you just can't infect the person next to you, no matter what you forget about, how excited you get," Coyne said.



New BCEC menu

THE Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) has adopted a strong Queensland-first approach to the design of its new menu, with Executive Chef David Pugh describing the revamped offering as "honest home-grown food".

Pugh said he's combed the length and breadth of the state searching for the finest produce, ranging from fresh Sunshine Coast prawns to prized Darling Downs Wagyu beef and everything in between.

The menu's debut coincides with the appointment of BCEC as an #eatqld partner, helping to spread the word about the safe and nutritious produce from Queensland's vibrant agricultural sector.

Vale Bob Heile

THE Australian events sector has paid tribute to Bob Heile PhD, a longstanding client of both Arinex and global conference organiser and event management partnership INCON.

Heile died at his Boston home last month, after an extensive career in technology which saw him lead global harmonisation of standards such as the system behind wi-fi.

Arinex founder Roslyn McLeod said she had dealt with Heile since 2001, and as well as tech innovations he became a "consummate conference expert" with an outstanding generosity of spirit and friendship.

Post-Pandemic new normal for Taipei MICE

MICE bouncing back in Taipei!

IN A time when many governments are scrutinized over their handling of COVID-19, Destination Taiwan has stood out with clear calls to action. Taipei City's MICE community developed a measured response plan for creating a safe environment during the transformation of its business events scene. In addition, the city's government cooperates with business owners to plan measures that cater to different industries, such as the MICE industry, to assist with adapting to the new normal. Next year, Taipei City Government will release details of its efforts in a white paper to serve as reference for future development.

In June this year the domestic MICE sector was officially re-opened by the Taiwan's Bureau of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and the Taiwan External Trade Development Council (TAITRA) jointly announcing a "MICE restart" for domestic meetings and events. The MICE venues in Taipei quickly deployed comprehensive anti-epidemic measures, enabling postponed MICE activities to resume and the MICE industry to begin its recovery.

Because of Taiwan's excellent

performance in preventing COVID-19, the World Taiwanese Chambers of Commerce (WTCC) held as per original plan for its 2020 annual congress on 29 Sep at Taipei's Grand Hotel. Taipei City Mayor Ko Wen-je personally attended, delivering a welcome address at the opening ceremony and also thanking the WTCC for overcoming difficulties in order to stage the annual congress as scheduled. Approximately 500 professionals attended the gathering, including almost 400 Taiwanese businesspersons who have specially returned to Taiwan from six different continents.

Taipei's DMC and EMC are more than ready to provide support to MICE organizers for navigating the post-pandemic world and with reopening in progress, are looking forward to provide safer access to the destination and adapting conference and events to the new needs of MICE planning and delivery.

For more information please visit www.expopark.taipei or www.anticovid19tw.org

Pictured: 2020 Nuit Blanche Taipei held on October 3 to 4 attracted more than 400 thousand people (Source: 2020 Nuit Blanche Taipei)

